



# Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Joseph H. Hogsett  
Southern District of Indiana**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, March 8, 2012

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ins/>

CONTACT: TIM HORTY

(317) 229-2409

[tim.horty@usdoj.gov](mailto:tim.horty@usdoj.gov)

## **NEW CASTLE MAN INDICTED ON FEDERAL GUN CHARGES, FACES UP TO TEN YEARS IN PRISON**

*Latest local results in ongoing U.S. Attorney's Violent Crime Initiative*

### **PRESS RELEASE**

NEW CASTLE – Josh Minkler, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, announced today the federal indictment of New Castle resident Brian S. Christie, age 36, on charges that he illegally possessed a firearm as a convicted felon.

“Over the last 18 months, the U.S. Attorney’s Office has focused on working closely with our law enforcement partners in Henry County and across the state,” Minkler said. “Today’s indictment is yet another prosecution to develop as a result of this important federal-local collaboration.”

It is alleged that on December 31, 2011, Christie illegally possessed a Taurus .22 caliber pistol. Christie’s criminal history indicates two prior Henry County felony convictions, including theft (January 2007) and possession of marijuana (July 2008). This indictment follows an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Department of Justice.

Announced in March of 2011, the Violent Crime Initiative (VCI) represents a district-wide strategy to work with local law enforcement and county prosecutors to combat drug traffickers and criminals that use and carry firearms in their illegal activities. In the first nine months of the initiative, the VCI produced a dramatic increase in the number of gun-related charges brought federally – from just 14 felony possession charges in 2010 to 103 last year. Already in 2012, 21 felon in possession charges have been filed as part of the VCI, putting the office on pace to exceed last year’s total.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Doris L. Pryor, who is prosecuting the case for the United States, Christie faces a possible penalty of up to 10 years imprisonment, a fine of up to

\$250,000, and up to three years of supervised release upon release from imprisonment if he is convicted. An initial hearing will be scheduled before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Indianapolis.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

###

Christie.20120308.wpd